Vocabulary / Root List #10

**BEN**

Latin BENE, “well, good”

(1) BENEVOLENT (adj) Kindly; favorable towards

L. bene + volere, “to wish” = *to wish well*

A *benevolent* neighbor put the runaway boy up for the night in his shed.

*syn*: humane *ant*: cold-hearted

(2) BENEFACTOR (n) A person who gives friendly aid

L. bene + facere, “to do” = *one who does good*

When the artist began to paint in a strange, new style, her usual *benefactor withdrew* all financial support.

(3) BENIGN (adj) Causing no harm

Although police initially thought the substance was a deadly chemical, they soon discovered it was totally *benign.*

*ant*: deadly

**CORD**

Latin COR, CORDIS, “heart”

(4) ACCORD (n) Sameness of opinion; agreement

L. ad, “near to” + cordis = *heart toward*

The leaders of the nation were in *accord* on the necessity of a new budget, but no one could agree on how the money should be spent.

*syn*: harmony *ant*: strife

(5) DISCORD (n) Lack of agreement; disharmony

L. dis, “apart” + cordis = *heart apart from*

Although they tried to hide their disagreement, the *discord* between the two teammates was obvious.

*syn*: disunity

(6) CORDIAL (adj) Warmly friendly and polite

If T-Bone can’t be *cordial* towards his ex-girlfriend, he shouldn’t go to her party.

*syn*: courteous *ant*: hostile

**ANIM**

Latin ANIMUS, “spirit”

(7) ANIMOSITY (n) Anger or hostility

Despite all the insults she had received, LaTonda expressed no *animosity* towards anyone.

*syn*: bitterness *ant*: civility

(8) EQUANIMITY (n) Evenness of mind or spirit; calm

L. aequus, “even” + animus = *even-spirited*

After her father reassured her, the small girl was able to face the bully with *equanimity*.

*syn*: composure *ant*: hysteria

(9) MAGNANIMOUS (adj) Generous in spirit

L. magnus, “large” + animus = *great-spirited*

It was quite *magnanimous* of Sami to shake hands with Fred, even after Fred tried to accuse her of being a witch.

*syn*: unselfish *ant*: greedy

**MAL**

Latin MALUS, “bad”

(10) DISMAL (adj) Causing great sadness or pessimism

L. dies, “day” + malus = *evil day*

My first attempt to build a birdhouse was a *dismal* failure; nails stuck out everywhere, and the paint collected in messy clumps.

*syn*: gloomy *ant*: cheerful

(11) MALEVOLENT (adj) Wishing harm towards; hostile

L. malus + volere, “to wish” = *wishing evil*

Anthony says putting a “Kick Me” sign on Josh’s back was an innocent practical joke, but I think it was a *malevolent* gesture.

*syn*: spiteful *ant*: friendly

(12) MALICIOUS (adj) Intended to hurt or harm

When her sister forgot to give Hayley an important phone message, Hayley accused her of being *malicious*.

*syn*: damaging *ant*: helpful

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